



Dr. Washington Okeyo,
PhD, MBA, BSC, MKIM,
AG. Vice-Chancellor, The
Management University of
Africa

Our Chief Guest, H.E. the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, **Dr. William Samoei Ruto**, The Governor of Kajiado County – H.E. **Hon Joseph Ole Lenku**, Chairman, Board of Trustees – **Dr. Thomas Musili**, Members of the Board of Trustees present, Chancellor – **Dr. Arch. Reuben Musyoka Mutiso**, Chairman, University Governing Council – **Dr. Edward Odundo**, Members of the University Governing Council present, Members of the UMB and the University Senate, Visiting members of Board of Trustees and University Governing Council from other Universities, Vice-Chancellors present, The Deputy Vice-Chancellors present, Members of faculty and staff, Parents and Guardians, Distinguished Guests, The Management University of Africa Students, Graduating Class of 2019, Ladies and Gentlemen, All protocols observed. *Good Morning! ... Good Morning once again!*

I am delighted to stand here this morning to welcome you all to the Management University of Africa. More importantly, I thank and welcome you all to Kisaju the seat of our University.

Chief Guest H.E. The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, Dr. William Samoei Ruto

In particular, I wish to acknowledge and warmly welcome our Chief Guest, H.E. The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya Dr. William Samoei Ruto. Your Excellency, may I on behalf of the entire MUA fraternity welcome you whole-heartedly to preside over this 6th commencement ceremony. We appreciate you for having found time from your very busy schedule attending to national duties and would like to assure you that the entire university fraternity including staff, students and all our guests are very happy with your presence here this morning.



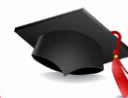
Allow me your Excellency to also thank your Government for supporting Universities in this country. In particular, we recognize and appreciate your government's initiative in allocating and sponsoring students to private Universities. Your Excellency, we appreciate you personally on this milestone because it is during your tenure as the Minister for Education when you caused policy framework change which now allows Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) to place students in private universities as from 2016. We would like to report that as of last placement that is the KCSE class of 2018, our University has received a cumulative total of 1038 Government sponsored for which we are very grateful to your government.

Your Excellency, one of the main responsibilities of universities is to undertake research. However, research as we all know is a very expensive undertaking. Allow me to thank your Government for having set up the National Research Fund through which our students and staff benefit through free funding which enables them carry out research on both academic and pertinent issues affecting not only our country but also the entire globe and hence finding solutions to challenges facing humanity both locally and internationally.

Your Excellency, we as a university also recognize and appreciate your Government's Big Four Agenda initiative. This is more so given the essential role that education plays in all the four pillars including Manufacturing, Food Security, Universal Healthcare Coverage, and Housing. The need for education to support the Big Four Agenda initiative has led to extensive expansion of the education space in Kenya by increasing education opportunities for our youth not only in Universities but also in Technical, Vocational, Education and Training (TVET) institutions. These are great milestones which continue to contribute immensely towards our national development and MUA is proud to be contributing to the Big Four Agenda initiative by producing graduates in various disciplines who will be relied upon to provide the much needed leadership and management solutions towards actualization of the four pillars.

Kajiado County Governor, H.E. Hon Joseph Ole Lenku

Your Excellency, allow me to also acknowledge the presence of H.E. The Governor of Kajiado County Hon. Joseph Ole Lenku. Your Excellency the Governor, please feel welcome to the Management University of Africa's 6th commencement ceremony this morning although as a matter of fact we are in your home. Your Excellency the Governor, we value the relationship between our University and your County Government which is growing stronger and stronger. Following the courtesy call to your office by MUA team led by myself on 8th October 2019 during which partnership



arrangements were discussed in various areas of mutual interest. I am glad to report that your County Government has delivered the two short term partnership areas we agreed on. To this end, we appreciate your County Government for paving the 3.3 Km link road from the Kisaju junction to the University which will go a long way to improve the movement of our students and the entire community.

Your Excellency the Governor, we also value your County Government's support towards operationalization of the University Clinic which has just been launched by H.E. The Deputy President this morning. This clinic will serve not only our students but also the Kajiado residents living within the vicinity of the University thereby supporting your County Government's Mbuji Moja Afya Bora initiative and thus contributing to Universal Healthcare Coverage pillar of the Big Four Agenda initiative in Kajiado County. Your Excellency the Governor, there are other long term initiatives which are detailed in an MOU which under consideration by your County Government. All these initiatives will bring immense benefits to both your County Government and our University and we greatly thank you for them.

STUDENTS' PREPARATION

Our Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, MUA is today graduating 337 students. These graduands have undergone intense preparation not only academically but also holistically. This has been achieved through the dedicated MUA academic and administrative staff. Our University has qualified staff who guided our students throughout their University life here to ensure that they are properly nurtured during their time in this University. Our staff offer excellent services to our students from admission, financial management, learning, student affairs, examination, student matters management and finally to graduation.

Learning which is perceived as perhaps the main reason which brings the student to the University is handled by the faculty under the various deans. Our faculty members have been engaged in teaching, research activities, conferences and workshops both locally and abroad. Most faculty members including but not limited to Dr. Emmanuel Awuor, Dr. Peter Paul Kithae, our DVC - Academics Dr. John Cheluget, Dr. Thomas Ngui, Dr. Paul Machoka and myself to mention a few, have not only been engaged in research but have also published several articles including with our students in peer reviewed scholarly journals worldwide.

This year alone, MUA faculty has published over 50 research articles in peer reviewed journals. In addition to these, our staff are crucial in student engagement programmes; engaging students work study programmes; research assistantship; co-teaching; community services and co-curricula activities which ensure that these graduating



students as well guided and ready to face and offer solutions to societal challenges. The graduating students are therefore a product of high academic standards and thus, well placed to face challenges outside and more importantly offer solutions to problems facing our society.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has a total of seven (7) academic programmes which are fully accredited by the Commission for University Education (CUE). The programmes are:

- Bachelor of Management and Leadership,
 - Bachelor of Arts in development Studies,
 - Bachelor of Commerce,
 - Master of Business Administration,
 - Master of Management and Leadership,
 - Master of Arts in Development Studies; and
 - Doctor of Philosophy in Management and Leadership.
- In addition, the university is also offering market oriented Certificate and Diploma programmes.

Ladies and Gentlemen, The University is an accredited Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport – CILT (UK) training and examination center for Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses in logistics, a Kenya Accountants and Secretaries National Examinations Board (KASNEB) examination center and International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) training and examination center. The University also offers capacity building under the Directorate of Executive Capacity Development Programmes with a wide range of customized programmes to suit your needs. It is worth noting that MUA is registered with the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), so come train with us.

GROWTH AND EXPANSION

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has experienced tremendous growth since inception in the year 2011. We started with two academic undergraduate programmes but as mentioned earlier, we now have seven academic programmes: three undergraduate, three masters and one PhD programme.

In 2012, the University enrolled 184 students, seven years later we are proud to have enrolled over 4,000 students in various programmes. The University is also a beneficiary of Government sponsored students placed by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Services (KUCCPS). Since 2016, KUCCPS has allocated 1,038 Government sponsored students to the university. The first cohort of 30 students admitted in this main campus in September 2019 are all Government sponsored.



Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has had five other previous graduation ceremonies but the difference today is that the 6th graduation ceremony is being held at the Main Campus in Kisaju. Today we release another 336 graduands to join the others in leading and transforming the world. I appreciate all those who have made this growth a reality.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Ladies and gentlemen, as far as research is concerned, the University has held seven (7) international conferences where our faculty and students have participated immensely by presenting papers that delve into issues geared towards transforming Kenya, Africa and the world. The 8th conference will take place in February 2020 and you are all invited to participate by way of presenting papers or attendance.

PARTNERSHIPS

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, a university cannot be of much benefit if it does not interact and integrate with the community to pass over the much needed knowledge. So our university is on course to integrate with Kajiado community having opened the doors of our clinic to the surrounding residents. However, a number of factors may slow down this integration and which we would like to appeal to your government to assist the University overcome.

Award of Charter

Your Excellency, our University is ready for the award of charter by virtue of having: this magnificent seat of the University; over 2,000 continuing students; mounted seven academic degree programmes; and the required faculty. These are beyond the minimum conditions set by the Government for award of charter. We are therefore appealing to your government, through you, to consider awarding us the charter in 2020 before the expiry of Letter of Interim Authority in December 2020.

University Endowment fund

Your Excellency, the University has an endowment fund to educate bright but needy students. Through this fund, the University gives full or partial scholarship to such students based on the level of need. Already, seven (7) have graduated with various degrees and integrated into the society while three (3) are still on going. However, there is still a long list of such students which keeps growing. Our prayer is to request your government through your office to support this worthy course to enable more needy but bright students to obtain their desired education and contribute to national development.



Tarmacking and street lighting the 3.3 KM link road

Your Excellency, I also reported earlier that the 3.3 Kilometer link road from Namanga road junction to our University has just been murramed thanks to Kajiado County Government. However, during dry weather, this road still remains a health hazard as a result of dust arising from increased usage as the traffic to the University increases with time. In addition, security along the road especially at night is a problem to our students and the residents. It is our humble request to your Government through you to facilitate tarmacking of the road to reduce the dust and to install street lights along the road to enhance security especially at night both to our students and the surrounding community.

Capitation for Government sponsored in private university

Your Excellency, my last request pertains to all private universities. As I stated earlier, the Government started placing students in private universities in 2016/2017 fiscal year for which we are very grateful. However, the capitation paid by the government to private universities per student per year has dropped from Shs. 70,000 in 2016/2017 to Shs. 49,000 in 2018/2019 while public universities receive much more. This puts a lot of strain on ability of private universities to provide expected services including academic and accommodation to students. It may also impact on quality of education in some cases. My prayer your Excellency is to ask your government to look into this disparity so that the money follows the student whether in public or private university.

CONCLUSION

To conclude allow me to reiterate the following. Graduation is the culmination of hard work, sacrifice, long hours and everything else you have put in your studies all these years. This is an important and unforgettable milestone in your lives. Your families, friends and we, the staff of MUA, are proud of you for having completed your degree programmes. However, education is a lifelong experience. The University has inculcated in you a learning culture that continues throughout your life time. With this in mind, I welcome you to register for the Diploma, Degree, Masters and PhD programmes immediately after this ceremony.

Once again, I congratulate you all on this deserving achievement. With the powers to read and do all that appertains that you are going to receive today, go ahead and transform the world as a proud graduate of the Management University of Africa.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2020!

God bless you

